



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

July 15, 2002

S. 1339

Persian Gulf War POW/MIA Accountability Act of 2001

As reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on June 27, 2002

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost about \$20,000 annually, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. The bill also could affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that any such effects would be less than \$100,000 annually. S. 1339 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not have a significant effect on state budgets. The bill would have no effect on local or tribal governments.

S. 1339 would grant refugee status to certain nationals of selected countries if they deliver into the custody of the United States a living American considered to be either a prisoner of war or missing in action from the Persian Gulf war. Those eligible would include nationals of Iraq and other nations of the greater Middle East region, as determined by the Attorney General and the Secretary of State. The bill would require the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) to promote the refugee program through radio and television broadcasts to those countries.

Based on information from the BBG, CBO estimates that the cost of additional international broadcasting would be about \$20,000 a year. Enacting S. 1339 also could increase the number of refugees admitted to the United States, which would increase the administrative costs for the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the costs for certain federal entitlement programs. However, CBO estimates that any increased spending on these activities, which would be classified as direct spending, would be less than \$100,000 in any year because very few additional refugees are expected under S. 1339.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.